

Santa Cruz Children's School

NOVEMBER NEWS

What a great start to the 2015-2016 school year! We are so grateful for all of your support and enthusiasm. Please take a moment to read over this newsletter and make note of important dates and announcements.

Parent Teacher Conferences

All day on Friday, November 20th, it is time for undivided attention! Please find the signup sheet for your child's teacher and sign up for a twenty minute time slot. There will be no classes on the day, but childcare will be available.

Field Trips

After a mad swirl of field trips, we have a short break before we'll be heading out again. Thank you to Andrea for organizing her neighborhood walking trips, to Kate for organizing trips to Arana Gulch and Nisene Marks to explore our local flora and fauna in person, and to Dan Roman for helping to set up the Willow group's trip with the Surfrider Foundation. Most of all, we want to send a massive thanks to all the parents who gave their time to make these trips possible. If you have any leads on trips, please let us know and we'll look into them.

The Leaves Are Back!

We have entered the part of the year when we need to rake leaves in our yard every morning. If you have a spare moment and a giant heart, you are all invited to spend any time you can helping out. It really does make our days smoother to have a bit of help in this area. If you can help out, please leave the leaves in piles and we will bag them up.

New Staff

This year, we have added so many wonderful new faces! We've got **Lena** and her exciting new math curriculum, **Kate** and her local ethnobiology class, **Liberty** and her multimedia art class, **Diana** and her geography/cooking class, **Kaia** and her mindfulness class, **Eisha's** amazing help in PE, **Gabby's** help in the afternoons, and **Joanna's** never ending logistical work! With so many to talk about, we'll meet just one per newsletter!



Upcoming Events

November 11

Veterans' Day – No School

November 20

Parent Teacher Conferences

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Break

Check the website calendar for updates



PAC

We had our first meeting of the SCCS Parent Action Committee (PAC) late in September. This is a group of parents and teachers who are willing to give an extra bit of their time and expertise to making our school an even richer place. It was decided that meeting in person is pretty tough to do all that often. As a result, we have our Google Group up and running, so we can organize online. Please let Joanna know if you'd like an invite. The most pressing order of business is finding Zak some help with putting on the play. Help is needed with poster and ticket design, marketing, costumes, props, scenery design and building, drivers for rehearsals, and musicians. Please contact Deric or Zak if you can help with any of these areas.

Library Cards

We walk to the Branciforte branch of the library every Wednesday. If your student doesn't yet have a Santa Cruz Public Library card, we request that you sign them up! We have a stack of applications at the school, or you can sign up on your own (online or in person) and send a card with them. We will keep it at the school for the year, and send it home with you for the summer. Our default rule is to limit the kiddos to 3 books, just so families don't have too many to keep track of. However, if you'd like them to be able to check out more books, please let Lena know.

A Reminder About Lunches

Hungry students can't learn. Neither can students who are full of sugar. This is why we ask that students come with a full, healthy lunch. The very occasional cookie or sugary fruit snack will not be the end of the world, but please try to keep these snacks to a minimum. It's also worth noting that there are many "organic" treats that are terribly unhealthy, so it pays to check labels. Even more important than sugar content though is whether your child has enough to eat. Please check in with them, and with teachers, to find out if you should pack them a little more.

Staff Spotlight

This month's staff spotlight is shining on **Lena Pine-Campbell**. If you've had a chance to watch her teach, you would never believe that this is her first year here. She's a true, naturally gifted educator! If she seems too comfortable to believe, it may be because it's not her first year here at all; she was a member of Santa Cruz Children's School's very first kindergarten class, and graduated from our little school as one of our first seven year students! Between then and now she graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in biology (and a minor in scientific SCUBA) from Humboldt State, and has hopped around the world teaching (and diving) in the name of science. Taking on the task of twenty completely individual sets of math curriculum is a daunting task for anyone, but she has picked it up with apparent ease and has hit the ground sprinting! She has quickly earned the love and respect of all of us here, and we are so lucky to have her. If you get an opportunity, please introduce yourself to her and spend some time talking to her. You're sure to be as impressed as we are.

